The Medical Colleges located at Rewa, Bhopal and Indore in Madhya Pradesh are not located on the Golden Quadrilateral, North-South and East-West Corridors of the national highways and as such are not covered under the scheme.

———————

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Manufacturing of spurious milk

2261. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to recent media reports about the spurious milk being manufactured at a large scale in North India;

(b) whether it is a fact that State owned milk producers like Mother Dairy and DMS etc. also procure milk from these vendors;

(c) if so, the details of the precautions these producers take or have taken to ensure that the quality of milk produced by them is genuine; and

(d) the action Government has taken against the spurious milk producers?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The state owned milk producers like Mother Dairy and DMS procure milk from State Cooperative Federations after following strict quality norms before acceptance of milk and their quality control laboratory are fully equipped for testing purity and adulteration of milk.

(d) The Central Government has issued instructions from time to time to Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts, who are responsible for implementation of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act in their State and U.T. to keep a strict vigil on the quality of milk and milk products and take necessary preventive action under the provision of PFA Act, 1954 and Rules 1955 made thereunder.

MSP of paddy

2262. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what measures Government is taking or proposing to increase Minimum Support Price (MSP) of paddy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of selected crops, including paddy, are fixed every year based on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in consultation with States and Central Ministries. For 2008-09, the MSP of paddy (Common) has been increased

from Rs. 645 per quintal in 2007-08 to Rs. 850 per quintal and of paddy (Grade A) from Rs. 675 per quintal to Rs. 880 per quintal.

Rejuvenation of agriculture under RVS

2263. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pursuant to the resolution adopted by the National Development Council to rejuvenate agriculture to achieve 4 per cent growth in the Eleventh Five Year Plan Government has started a new scheme called Rashtriya Vikas Yojana with an estimated outlay of Rs. 25,000 crores;

(b) if so, the salient features of the RVY;

(c) whether any incentives have been given under the above scheme to States, particularly West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Assistance under the scheme is made available to the States as 100% grant. The States have full autonomy in the process of selection, planning, approval and execution of schemes. Funds are allocated to the States in two streams, viz., Stream-I and Stream-II and are routed through the State Agriculture Department, which is the nodal Department for the scheme. Under Stream-I, at least 75% of the RKVY funds are made available for specific projects as part of the State and District Plans. Under Stream-II, upto 25% of the total RKVY funds to a State are made available for strengthening existing State Sector schemes.

Under the Scheme, the following broad activities have been identified for focus attention:—

Integrated Development of Food Crops, including coarse cereals, minor millets and pulses; Agriculture Mechanization; Soil Health and Productivity; Development of Rainfed Farming Systems; Integrated Pest Management; Market Infrastructure; Horticulture; Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries; Concept to Completion Projects that have definite timelines; Support to Institutions that promote Agriculture and Horticulture, etc.; Organic and Bio-fertilizers; and Innovative Schemes. These activities are only indicative in nature.

(c) No incentive is provided to the states but the scheme is so designed that the States spending more in agriculture and allied sectors under State Plan budget, gets more allocation under RKVY scheme.

(d) A Statement (*See* below) indicating details of funds allocated and released to the States including **West Bengal** during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 in enclosed.